A

FRIEND

TO

CÆSAR.

OR AN

HUMBLE PROPOSITION

FOR

The more regular, ſpeedy, and eaſie Payment of his Majeſties Treaſure, Granted, or to be Granted by the Lords and Commons Aſſembled in Parliament, for the carrying on of his Majeſties Expences, whether Ordinary or Extraordinary, both in time of Peace and in time of War.

AND ALSO

The Cauſes of thoſe many Debts which the Crown is ſo heavily Clogged with. And ſound Propoſitions for the Cure thereof.

By a Perſon of Honour.

LONDON.

Printed for *Robert Harford* at the Sign of the *Angel* in *Cornhil*, near the Royal *Exchange*, 1681

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The more regular, speedy, and easie Payment of his Majesties Treasure, Granted, or to be Granted by the Lords and Commons Assembled in Parliament for the carrying on of his Majesties Expences, whether Ordinary or Extraordinary, both in time of Peace and in time of War.

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The Causes of those many Debts which the Crown is so heavily Clogged with. And sound Propositions for the Cure thereof.

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THE PREFACE TO THE READER.

YOu have here, Reader, presented to your View, one of the most useful Books this Age has seen. This woody, noisy Age, fruitful only in base, in treacherous, or vain Productions, and therefore sunk in the Esteem of wise and Good Men, has the Honour at last of Publishing this excellent Book, whose Merit is too great to be spoke in the narrow Limits I oblige my self to. The worthy Author has shewn himself in the following Pages to be what the Title calls this Book, a Friend to Cæsar. No cunning Gloser of the Court, no fawning Parasite, no supple insinuating Flatterer, but such a Friend as generously interposes to free the Sacred Crown of the British Empire from that Rust and Tarnish that has so long obscured its Lustre. The Title of this Book promises no more, than what the Author admirably acquits himself of in the following Discourse. He has shewn himself not only by his excellent Design and End to be a true English-Man, a brave, an honest, and a worthy Patriot; but also by his admirable Management of it, to be a Wise and Great Man, capable of the highest Reasonings, and the best Resolves. A fit and just disposure of the publick Treasure, is a Point so necessary, and withal so nice, that as there is nothing more worthy the enquiry of such whose Station and Quality fits them for the Service of the State; so there is nothing that more requires to be proposed and setled by the steadiest Counsels, the greatest Deliberations, and the Wisest Cautions. You will find, Reader, lively Instances of the unhappiness of diverting the publick Moneys from the Ends to which they were appropriated. And every reflecting Mind will easily discern how Fatal such Miscarriages may prove: when the Peace of

Nations shall be a Sacrifice to the by-Ends of private Persons: or when the Treachery of some, or the Neglect of others shall hazard the ruine of the general Repose, or Wreck of the publick Safety. You will find how heavily the Crown is clogged with Debt. You will find many of the plain and obvious (tho concealed or neglected,) Causes. And you will find such sound Propositions of Cure, as nothing less (I believe) than the collective Wisdom of the Nation can alter them to mend them. I perswade my self that no Man can bring any just Objection to the solid Reasonings, to the plain Demonstrations that this Author uses: If at least he Read with such an attention of Mind as the Subject requires, and comes but to it with an unprejudiced Judgment.

I have often thought it a most deplorable thing, that the Splendor of the Imperial Crown of these Rich and Flourishing Nations, should be so long Dark'ned and Eclipsed by such a Cloud of Debts. And I have wondred as oft how it could possibly be so. So many Wise and Faithful Ministers of State, I thought, could never suffer their Masters Treasure to flow out of the proper Channel, and to be diverted to Ends, unworthy the Glory of the Royal Diadem, or unsuitable to the Honour of their own Fidelity and Loyalty. Howsoever it be, the King is unhappily engaged in very great Streights and Difficulties by the pressing Burthen of his Debts, and as this excellent Author has well dived into the Causes, and discovered the Moths and Rust that insensibly by unminded Stepps secretly Cankered and Decay'd the Treasure: So has he with all Candour offered such Means of Redress as he has upon the maturest Result of Judgment thought the best. The Legislative Power of the Nation is certainly the best Judge of this Gentlemans Opinion: and himself has with all becoming Humility, and due Submission, wholly laid these his Sentiments at the Footstool of that Sacred Power. 'Tis a sence of Duty that every true Englishman must always cherish in himself: and which for my own particular, is one of the only things I can Vallue in my self. God forbid therefore that any thing I say in this Preface, should be extended to forestal the Judgment of a Parliament: for all whose Proceedings as I have always the highest Veneration and Deference; So I would by no means be thought to intend this a Censure upon them, in case their Sentiments prove different from the Authors. No, but on the contrary I profess to regulate my little Reason by their strength of Wisdom, and reform the Errours of my Judgment, by the Truth of theirs. The occasion of my Writing this, was no more than an excess of Love and Zeal, I naturally have for my King and Country, which always taking new Fire at every hint that speaks any brave or generous Service to them, broke out into rapture at the reading of these

Sheets.

Sheets. My Breast I found was too narrow for the Genius that inspir'd it, and no longer able to contain, at last it thus ran on. I could not forbear recommending a thing I liked so well, to the glad perusal of others: and the Bookseller would needs publish what I writ, I cannot but confess't an Honour to me; for by this Advantage something of me may remain to future Ages, whilst annexed to this inestimable Jewel, and this worthless Scribble, which otherwise perhaps had perished in the next Fire, or which is worse, bin continued by the fate of Wilds and Flecknots Workes to cast up Fruit, might now (had I the vanity to subscribe it) convey my Name and Memory to the utmost end of time. I could never end, Reader, did I give but way to all the Violence and Heat that agitates my Mind. What could not be said on this Glorious, this Loyal, this useful Theme! A Proposition for establishing and securing a lasting Glory to the English Crown and Nation, by delivering the Crown from the wretched wardship of its Debts, and by Preventing it from all future incursions of that kind. This Glorious Deed once done, I should not doubt to see in a short time, the Royal English Lyons rouse themselves to the Fear and Terrour of all their insulting Neighbours. But I will not be too far, nor too long detain the Reader from the useful Sheets that follow. I will only beg the Readers Patience, and the Authors Pardon for adding the following Opinion of mine, to what the worthy Author speaks about Distress, where the Collectors do not presently pay us their Mony when required. I conceive that not meerly a Constable, but in the Country some Justices of the Peace, or in a Corporation the Major or other chief Magistrate should be present at the Distress of the Goods, of such as shall delay Payment of, or any ways imbezel the publick Monies, both for the greater solemnity of the thing, as being the publick Mony, and to prevent the Odium and Revenge that may attend a particular Person for doing it. That I may keep my Word with the Reader and no longer withhold him from the Book it self, I will but add my hearty Wishes and Prayers for the auspicious Progress and Event of this worthy Authors generous Design; and again asking his Pardon for this presumption, and the Reader for his Detention, conclude this Preface, and conduct you to the excellent Book it self.

A Catalogue of some new Books, Printed and Sold by Robert Harford, *at the* Angel *in* Cornhil, *near the Royal* Exchange, 1681.

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A

A FRIEND TO CÆSAR, &c.

IT appears by ſeveral Acts of Parliament, that the Nation hath frequently been charged with great Sums of Mony, for the carrying on Wars, and for other the neceſſary Service of the Crown and Nation.

Thoſe Sums for Methods ſake were by their ſeveral Acts diſtributed to the reſpective Counties, and Cities of the Nation, and afterwards ſubdivided by Commiſſioners appointed by the ſame Acts into Hundreds, Wapes, and Wapentakes in each County, and the whole Sum for one or three Months laid upon every diſtinct County apportioned to the reſpective Hundreds thereof, and the Proportion allotted to every Hundred, ſubdivided again by the Commiſſioners of each Hundred, into ſo many Parts as there are Diviſions in that Hundred, more or leſs according to the greatneſs and ſmallneſs of the Diviſions, and Warrants iſſued out by the ſaid Commiſſioners, to the Conſtables of each Diviſion, to Collect the Sum required after an Aſſeſſment thereof made by the Inhabitants, or ſome of them, appointed thereunto by the Commiſſioners of each Hundred.

This Money, laid uppon each Diviſion of each Hundred, is again ſubdivided into Pariſhes, and thoſe Pariſhes into the reſpective Townſhips of each Pariſh, and at length ſtated by the Aſſeſſors, upon each individual Inhabitant of each Townſhip, that hath any Eſtate Real or Perſonal, to render him or them lyable to pay any part of what is laid upon that Diviſion; And ſo the whole Treaſure granted by the Acts, or ought to be, collected and paid by the Inhabitants of every Townſhip, by all Townſhips in every Pariſh, by all Pariſhes in every Diviſion, by all Diviſions in every Hundred, by all Hundreds in every County, and by all Counties in the whole Kingdom. A way very ſuitable to the Prudence of the repreſentative of the People, and much becoming the Juſtice of the High Court of Parliament.

Yet if I may have Leave, without Offence, I would humbly demand,

How it comes to paſs, that notwithſtanding ſo Many, ſo Great and Unparallel'd Sums of Money as have been given and granted to his Majeſty, ſince his happy return to his Crown, His Majeſty ſhould yet be ſaid not only to have an Empty Exchequer, but alſo to be much in debt to ſeveral of his Subjects.

In all Diſeaſes of the Body Natural, we ſay to diſcover the Cauſe of the Diſtemper, is half a Cure, and to remove it, will totally reſtore the Patient. What is true in the Diſtemper of the Body Natural, is as equally true in the Diſtemper of the Body Politick; take away the Cauſe, and the Effect ceaſeth. And however it is not eaſy (yea 'tis impoſſible) to Aſſign all the grounds and cauſes of his Majeſties unhappineſs in this particular, after the expreſſion of ſo much Love, Loyalty, and Affection from his Parliament and People, who almoſt (if not altogether) have at every Seſſion, given him for theſe ten Years paſt, little or much to enable him to carry on his Affairs, without expoſing himſelf to Debts, and other grieving Diſadvantages to himſelf and his People, yet ſome of them that are too obvious (and the grand Cauſes among many others) ſhall be given in anſwer to this Inquiry, for the future prevention of ſo great a diſſervice, both to his Majeſty and his People, who by reaſon thereof is alwaies receiving, and yet hath not ſufficient, and who are always giving, and yet are as far from their end in giving, as if they had given little or nothing.

1. The firſt Reaſon or Cauſe that I ſhall mention may be in the Parliaments not giving or granting, what they do give or grant, till the Service for which it is given, be commenced or in ſome forwardneſs for its Expence, whereby his Majeſty is oftentimes forced either to advance his Treaſure upon the Credit of what they are about to give him, or for want thereof to purchace all or moſt Commodities requiſite for his Service, at exorbitant Rates and Prizes, which renders it much more in Charge and Expence, than otherwiſe it would or ought to be.

2. Theſe Allowances given by the Parliament out of the Treaſure, given his Majeſty in their reſpective Acts to ſeveral Perſons, though in it ſelf, it be upon view, but of ſmall or no conſideration; to wit, one penny or two pence in the Pound, Yet if theſe pence or two pences be caſt up, and put into a total Sum, to be defaulked from the whole Sum given, it will then appear that the want thereof is a great Detriment to his Majeſty, and doth fruſtrate his Service (as to ſo much) beyond his expectation from the Sum given him. As for Example, ſuppoſe the Sum given to be two Millions (as of late it hath been and more) four pence in the Pound, diſtributed into pence and two pences to ſeveral perſons, amounts in the whole, Two Millions to 33333 *l.* 06 *s.* 08 *p.* This 33333 *l.* 06 *s.* 08 *p.* if duly paid would anſwer his Majeſties expectation of two Millions of Treaſure ſaid to be given his Majeſty, and the Parliaments intention in giving him ſo much, whereas this defaulkation in the Act it ſelf, renders the Sum ſo much leſs than is promiſed, and his Majeſty ſo much the more in debt for want of it, and the Subject liable to future Taxations for the ſame Money, which he hath already paid as part of the two Millions formerly granted.

3. The

3. The Anticipation of his Majesties Revenues, by Loanes from the City of London, and other private Men or Places, (before what is given him by his Parliament is or can be reckoned,) is a great cause of its expence, without that Providence which otherwise might be used, and consequently of leaving his Majesty under the burthen of debt, as much (if not more) than he was before it was given him.

4. The paying of Interest to all Venders of Goods or Commodities served into the Navy, for the carrying on his Majesties Service there, is intolerably disadvantagious to his Majesty, and contracts upon him such, and so great Debts, that unless the Parliament be constantly giving, his Majesty must needs sink under the weight of them (for over and above the common and bare Interest allowed) these men knowing before-hand, what course they must steer, before they can compass their Money, will not part with their respective Commodities, without the inclusion of 20 *per Cent.* Profit for their Goods sold, for which upon receipt of Bills or Debentures for their Money, they immediately carry them to the Exchequer, and enter them there as so much Money lent to his Majesty, at 7 or 8 *per Cent.* till they be paid, whereby it appears to me, (I know not what it doth to other men) that his Majesty loseth 30 *per Cent.* of all Bills or Debentures so brought into his Exchequer, as Money lent for Goods sold into the Service, which must needs leave his Majesty as much in Debt at the end of the Year as he was at first.

5. The Payment of those Moneys either lent or anticipated by Tallyes, or brought into the Exchequer by Bills or Debentures in the new way, commonly called by COURSE, is the Ivy that eats out the Heart of his Majesties Revenue; for though it be true that the Parliament have in their Wisdoms, made strict *Provisoes* in several Acts, for the due payment thereof, without much Charge or Fees to the Vender or Buyer, yet it is also true that, let them do what they can to prevent the Mischiefs that may attend their Payment Irregularly or out of Course, yet (when they have done all) all that they have done, nor doth nor can signify any thing as to the freeing his Majesty from being in Debt, in regard what they build upon in this way, is that which cannot stand for want of a sure and solid Foundation to bear it upon.

For whatever is or may be pretended unto by those Gentlemen that were the first contrivers of this way, as men interested to promote it, yet indeed the way it self is a Sandy Foundation, and so far from answering its end, to wit, the speedy payment of his Majesties Debts, that it is totally destructive to him and the Nation, and the longer it is followed, the more he will find himself plunged into Debt; So that if he had not the Peoples Purses and Affections to supply him in a constant way of giving, he would never be able to extricate himself out of them. And to speak plainly, Payments in course, are at the best but coarse Payments, both in reference to his Majesties Honour and Profit, and with reference to his Peoples satisfaction, except such as are interressed Persons, or usurious Abusers of his Majesties Service. I shall take leave to expatiate a little upon this Head, because I know it to be the greatest *Diana* of these times, and is looked upon as the rarest Expedient that ever was found out for the Honour of his Majesties Service.

Suppose a Lord, or other Noble Man of this Nation, whose Revenue

is 5000 Pound good Estate, to be also an adventurer to the East Indies, or Guinny, twenty thousand Pounds with hopes and design to improve his Fortune, who yet by reason thereof and other Expences, incumbent upon him for the support of his Family, and maintenance of himself in that grandeur, that his Birth, Office at Court, or Nobility requireth, begets himself unwarily into Debt to several men 40000 *l*, which if paid, would almost ruine his Estate, and if not paid will grow more and more upon him every Year. Suppose also this Nobleman, upon consideration of his present condition, should advise with his Steward or other Servants or Friends, what course to take to free himself from this great pressing Debt: It cannot be imagined that any faithful Steward or Friend will say, Sr. you have 5000 Pounds *per Annum* in good Revenue, settle it upon your Creditors for their security, that their Debts shall be paid them, but limit your self to no time when, only ingage your Income for the Principal, and pay them Intereſt, till you can pay them both Intereſt and Principal, and that they may be satisfied that you intend really and truly to pay them one time or other; give them order that all and every of them shall bring his and their Bills, Bonds, Book-Debts or what else soever he hath to shew for his Debt to your Steward, and there enter their Claim upon Record with Promise, that he that comes first shall be first paid, and he that comes last, must be content to stay till the last but himself be paid, only both the first and last shall all be assured that let the Payment be when it will (ever or never) they shall all be paid in Course, and they shall all have Intereſt allowed them till it be paid, though never, or never so late first.

Yet admit he or they should thus advise this Noble-Man, can any rational Man think that this is a good way or proposition to disingage him from his Debts, or that it is a good Foundation laid to free him from them, and yet preserve his Estate, Honour, Adventure and all necessary Expences intire? surely no; Considering that by this Advice his Revenue must be pawned to his Creditours, his Adventure will daily call upon him for more Issues, his Honour will require that he should still live at the same rate as formerly, and that the Intereſt of his 40000 Pounds Debt will be a constant eating Charge upon his Estate. Must not these Incumbrances needs leave him in a worse Condition as to his Debts the next, than he was this Year, if he resolves to take up or prosecute this Way or Advice.

For the Intereſt of 40000 Pound for one Year is 2400 Pound, which is almost half as much as his whole Revenue can drown of his Debts for that Year, so that he pays but 2600 Pounds of his 40000 Pound Debt in one whole Year, and is left at loss how to equip and set to Sea his Ships the next Year, having all his Revenue in Lavender to his Creditours. If he doth not set them forth, he hazards the loss of his 20000 *l* Stock, if he doth, he must then advance Money upon the Credit of his whole Estate to do it withal, and this involves him into a greater Debt than he was in at first. If he cannot take up Money without great Disadvantage, then there is nothing left him but to hire his Ships, Man, Victual, and Store them with all Commodities fit for the Trade he drives, upon Trust or Ticket from such as will trust him or sell their Commodities to him at 6, 6, and 6 Months time, till his Ships return from Sea, at what time he hath Freight, Victual and Wages to pay to all his Seamen and Owners as a growing Debt upon him. Now I pray consider will any of those that trust him with their

Goods,

Goods at such Days of Payment (if they know his Condition) not include in the Price of their Goods, so much Profit, as may bear the hazard and adventure of their Trust and Forbearance? surely they will. And by how much his Necessity may pinch him to make use of their Courtesie, by so much he may assure himself they will grow upon him in the Price and Profit of their Commodities, and this runs him more and farther into debt than ever; for he that drives a Trade upon Ticket or Trust, either by advancing Money at Interest, or taking up Goods at Time, is and must needs be in a sad Condition as to his Trade.

Unto which we may also add that if this Lord or Noble-Man shall yet resolve to live at as high a rate as ever for the Maintenance of himself, his Lady and Family, and for the upholding his Reputation in Court and Country (Necessity being laid upon him so to do,) then certainly his Debt must and will increase upon him every Year, so long as he continues in this course, and sink him deeper and deeper into Debt, and all this (and more that might be said) upon the single Accompt of this Sandy Foundation or Advice given him by his Steward to enable him to creep out of Debt by degrees.

I list not to make any Application of this Parallel to the Case in hand, an easie understanding will save me that labour, and though I know that Similies do not run upon four Feet, yet I shall take the boldness to tell my Reader, that as this Course is and must be greatly destructive and prejudicial to the private Estate, Honour and Reputation of this Lord or Noble-Man, so it is infinitely much more in the case of the King, in regard no Comparison between a private Man and a Prince, will or can reach the said Loss and Dammage that must and will attend his Service, more than any private Mans whatsoever.

6. The next begetter of his Majesties great Debts, is the non-payment of the Seamens Wages so soon as the respective Ships come into Harbour, and are safe at their Moorings after the Service is ended, the neglect or want whereof is the Ground and Cause of that devouring Charge that attends his Majesties Service.

What the Dammage thereof is or may be, is not easily discerned by most Men, and little considered by those that do discern it, as being neither their Horse nor their Load; but that you may see a little into the mischief thereof, I shall crave Leave to hold it forth in the Example of a Ship of 200 Men, that by the Foot you may better guess at the Body of great Sea-Monsters.

Suppose a Ship manned with 200 Men, and employed in his Majesties Service for six Months past, to come into Harbour, and for want of Treasure to pay off, the Company lyes at her Moorings, or in dry Dock one Month, full manned in Victuals and Wages; the Question before us is, what Dammage this is to his Majesty for the growing Debt of Victuals and Wages for that Month.

That we may the better see the Dammage, we must inquire and know what is the Debt from his Majesty for the whole Company for their six Months Service past. Now the Debt for the Wages of 200 Men for one Month, (supposed at 30 Shillings *Medium* for one Man) comes to 300 Pounds, which for six Months is 1800 Pounds. This being stated, it appears that the Dammage his Majesty sustains for the want of 1800 Pounds

to

to pay off these 200 men is for one Months Wages 300 Pounds, unto which if you add for the Price of their Victuals for the same Month (at 20 Shillings *medium*) it amounts to 200 Pounds more, and is in the whole 500 Pounds, which is 200 Pounds more than one quarter part of the whole 1800 Pound Debt for six Months. Now how unreasonable a thing is it that his Majesty should for want of 1800 Pound present Money be smitten into Debt 500 Pound in one Month, and so in proportion into a greater or smaller Debt, for a longer or shorter time, whilest the said Ship lies unpaid? If the preceding Article of Anticipation be by the bare Interest of Money, such a loss to his Majesty, what Detriment is this at such a time when yet his Majesty hath no need of, nor Service for those men whom he both feeds and payes?

Let those that can, cast it, for my part, though I can I will not, as ashamed to say what it is; and upon that account I must confess that I have sometimes stood amazed to think upon the Improvidence (I must not say Imprudence) of some employed in his Majesties Service, that should take care to prevent this Mischief, not much inferiour to the last mentioned; And I dare affirm that and if it be no better provided against in the future, than it hath been for time past, let the Parliament give what Treasure they please to his Majesty, to carry on his Service in time of War; this very particular shall swallow up a great part thereof, and leave his Majesty more in Debt at the end of every Voyage or Service, than can be recovered or paid without new Supplies from the Nation, for if 200 Men shall beget him 500 Pound in Debt for one Month, it is not difficult to say what the whole or greatest part of a Fleet manned with 30 or 40000 Men shall fleece from him for two or three Months together.

It would be accounted an officious Act to discover what Debts his Majesty contracted in this particular, for and during the late War with the *Dutch*. And though it be not difficult to Collect it by the respective Sea Books of each Ship in the Fleets then set to Sea (discompting the time from each Ships coming to her Moarings, till the day she was paid off) yet indeed it is better to be concealed than made publick, for if it were exactly cast up and known, it would astonish his Majesty to think how his Treasure hath been wasted, and his Debt increased without any Service done for it, being paid not so much for Wages earned, as Money cast away for want of Treasure to pay what they had already earned, before they came to their Moarings.

7. Among other Causes of his Majesties contracting great Debts upon him, it is none of the least to farm out his setled Revenues; Such as the Excize of Beer and Ale, Chimney-Money, *&c.* to such men as will contract for them, for this is the way to render these Collections one third part less than indeed they are, and consequently his Majesty so much the more in Debt. It cannot be denyed but that all Undertakers or Farmers of his Majesties Revenues, Fish for Profit to themselves, and were they not assured that in probability they might gain to themselves one third Part more than what they engaged to pay, they would never oblige themselves and their Estates to make good what they promise. We may add to this that all Advance-Money upon the Contract or Farme taken, lessens the Revenue so much the more, by how much the more ready Money they do advance before they enter upon their Contract, for it is not to be believed that these men

men would depoſite ſo great Sums as they do, were it not as a Shooing-horn, the better and eaſier to draw the Contract (as a Shooe) on their Feet. And though here be no viſible Loſs of Intereſt Money to his Majeſty by this Anticipation, as in the caſe of other Loanes (yea rather a ſeeming viſible Profit,) yet the inviſible Loſs included in the Contract it ſelf, is more than the Profit of double Intereſt to the Farmer, and conſequently more than the Loſs of double Intereſt to his Majeſty.

Nor muſt I omit (though I know it a Digreſſion from the Point in hand) that great reflection upon his Majeſties Honour that attends this way of Farming, for under pretence of his Majeſties Grant or Commiſſion, the reſpective Farmers skrew and tenter the Subject unto or beyond the Letter or Meaning of the Act of Parliament, yea contrary to Certificates produced from the Juſtices of the Peace, that they are free'd from Payments by the Act it ſelf, and thereby they render their Lives bitter to them, and their Eſtates exceeding Poor and Low. Hence comes Clamour, Diſcontentedneſs againſt the preſent Government, and the Cry of the Poor againſt their own Truſtees. I know that moſt of theſe Undertakers are Gentlemen of Quality in their reſpective Countries, where their Farm lies (though ſome alſo are Strangers to the Places, and live far remote) but I know withal that theſe Gentlemen do not Act in their own Perſons, farther than to regulate or methodize their Profit upon the whole Farm, and when that is done, they let out their Farms to Subcontractors, if they can get any that will come up to their Price, ſo as to aſcertain their deſigned Profit, and if they cannot ſo do, then they depute the Power of his Majeſties grant to them, to Subcollectors for their Uſes, who generally are men of ſmall (if any) Reputation in the Countries or Places where they live, and who for the moſt part do employ ſuch men under them as are much inferiour to themſelves, and altogether unfit to receive any Truſt. And theſe are the men that rake and tear, that grieve and vex the Subject, which the firſt undertakers and ſometimes their Subcontractors and Subcollectors are aſhamed to appear in, though yet it be connived at both by the one and the other, to be done by theſe inferiour Inſtruments, in order to the improvement of their Farm or Contract, the Profit whereof was the firſt Bait that inticed them to bite at his Majeſties Service, whatever might otherwiſe be pretended.

Thus I have endeavoured to give you a few of the many Grounds and Cauſes of his Majeſties paſt and preſent great Debts, notwithſtanding all that large and liberal Aid he hath and doth receive from his Subjects, by ſeveral Acts of Parliament.

I could eaſily enlarge, and both tire my ſelf, and my Reader in ſpecifying many more, which though happily they are or may not be ſuch, and ſo great as thoſe before mentioned, yet of themſelves they are of great Concernment, and highly prejudicial to his Majeſties Service, by licking up (beyond all Bounds and Reaſon) his Majeſties Treaſure, and hurrying him into Debt as I may ſay, over Shooes and Boots. Such are the Management of his Naval Affairs in the Victualling Office by Contract, too great Salleries to ſubordinate Inſtruments, want of ſeaſonable Supplies of the Magazeens in all his Majeſties Yards and Store-Houſes, buying all ſorts of Proviſions at extream Rates and Prizes when (and not before) Neceſſity enforceth their ſupply, payment of thoſe Proviſions in a long bow of time, furniſhing the neceſſity of one Yard or Store-Houſe with the Proviſions of another

other Yard after they are laid in there, at exorbitant Rates and Charge, want of due Muſters, and in Default thereof Payment, of dead Payes to Captains, Purſers, *&c.*; Imbezellments of Boteſwaines, Gunners, and Purſers, the abuſe of provant Cloaths ſold to Seamen preſt into the Service, buying poor Seamens Tickets, compounding for Bills and Debentures, when there is Money in the Office to pay them, Diverting his Majeſties Treaſure to private Uſes. Theſe and an hundred more, that with an eaſie Recollection might be ennumerated, are all tending much to the Diſſervice of his Majeſty, the contracting of greater Debts than needs, the Diſcouragement of the Subject to ſerve his Majeſty with Proviſions, the Diſcontent of the whole Nation, and the Diſappointment of the good Intentions of the Parliament, in laying ſo many and ſo great Burthens and Taxes upon the Subject, with deſign to preſerve his Majeſty from being in Debt. But in regard, all or the moſt part of theſe (and thoſe I paſs over with Silence) are ſuch as are already in the Hands and Care of Subordinate Inſtruments, intruſted with their Regulation and Prevention, I ſhall rather chooſe in Silence to bury them, than by raking in them, to uncover the Nakedneſs of thoſe whoſe Truſt is to reform them. And ſhall proceed in what remains before me, as the Deſign of this whole Diſcourſe, to wit (if it be poſſible) to propound ſuch Expedients as (at leaſt in my poor and weak Capacity) may have a Tendency to preſerve his Majeſties Honour, and to redeem him from thoſe needleſs growing Debts that now burthen him, and in him the whole Nation. And yet to carry on his Majeſties Revenue, Service, and Expence, at as high a Rate of Honour and Value as now it is or can be ſuppoſed to be, by all thoſe Contrivances and Practices before mentioned.

The whole Charge and Expence of his Majeſty may for Methods Sake be looked upon under the Notion of Ordinary or Extraordinary.

I call ſuch Ordinary as refer to his Perſon, his Houſe, Guards, Buildings, Reparations, Privy-Purſe, Intelligences, Negotiations with forraign Princes, Maintenance of his Navy in Harbour, his Garriſons, Fortifications, Building and Repairing of Ships, together with all other things, that are conſtant Charges upon him, and muſt be kept and maintained by him, and his Succeſſors, as Kings of *England*.

I call nothing Extraordinary, but open and Proclaimed War, with one or more Forraign Nations, or Aſſociation with Forraign Princes, whereby he is and muſt be forced to raiſe an Army, or ſet out Fleets of Ships to Sea, *&c.* For the Common Defence of the Nation, preſervation of Peace, Trade, *&c.*

The firſt of theſe is already provided for and ſetled, the Parliament having given his Majeſty twelve hundred thouſand Pounds a Year, to enable him to pay and bear all Charges and Expences that may or do attend ſuch things as are of a conſtant being; and muſt of Neceſſity be kept up and maintained for the preſervation of the Nation in time of Peace, and the Honour of his Majeſties Perſon and Court. And I could heartily wiſh that if what is already ſetled upon him ſhall by experience be found too little, more might be added rather than his Majeſty be expoſed to follow the by-Ways, and Devices of Byaſſed Men, to advance Money for his Neceſſity, and thereby run himſelf into great Debts, not ſo eaſily Diſcharged as Made. It is a ſad Story that the whole Nation of England (I might ſay three whole Nations) ſhould not be ſufficient for the Maintenance of one Man, according

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to the Nobleness of his Birth, the Dignity of his Office, and the Necessary Expences that attend it, without such Precarious ways before mentioned, that render him (as a borrower) a Servant to the Lender, and yet after all leave him in a worse Condition than he was at first.

The last of these must be provided for, by Additional and Extraordinary Levyes upon the Nation, according to the Greatness, and Formidableness of the Enemy, the length of the War, &c. As it shall be made known by his Majesty to his Parliament, who are bound seasonably and speedily to supply what they in their Wisdoms find fitting, for the better carrying on of the War, both by Sea and by Land, for the Preservation of his Majesty and the Honour and Safety of the Nation, &c. Now supposing the first already setled, and the last to be setled by the Parliament: the next Enquiry is how his Majesty may have and enjoy the full proceed of his Revenue already setled upon him for all ordinary Expences, without Snips, Abatements, Defalkations or other great Loss or Dammage before it be collected, or after it is Collected before it is paid to him, or to his use, to such Persons as he shall Authorize to receive the same. And how his Parliament may for the future so settle a Revenue upon his Majesty, for all extraordinary Charges, &c. in case of War, and dispose the Collection, Receipt, Payment, and Expence thereof, and of every part thereof, that the Nation may not be abused, his Majesty Dishonoured, nor his Service Retarded, either for want of Treasure sufficient to bear the Charge, or want of Care and Fidelity, in the Payment of all Expences the War may require.

I put the Collection and Payment of all Treasure, whether for Ordinary Charges in time of Peace, or Extraordinary Expences in time of War together, because the same way to be propounded for the Collection and Payment of all Treasure given or to be given his Majesty for ordinary Expences is (or with little Variation may be) the way and measure of all Collections for extraordinary Expences in time of War. For the Collection whereof I shall humbly Offer to Consideration these ensuing Propositions (*viz.*)

1. That all Acts of Parliament already made, whereby his Majesty hath any Revenue from the Nation in General, such as Excize upon Ale and Beer, Hearth-Money, &c. and all future Acts to be made to Levy Money upon the general Body or Bulk of the Nation, for any Cause or Causes whatsoever, either Ordinary or Extraordinary, be declared by the Parliament to be Collected in manner and form following. That is to say, First by every Township in the whole Nation, according to the respective Proportions assessed upon them. Secondly, by every Parish containing such and so many Townships in that Parish. Thirdly, by every Division containing so many Parishes in that Division. Fourthly, by every Hundred containing so many Divisions as are in that Hundred. Fifthly, by every County containing so many Hundreds as are in that County. And lastly by the whole Nation, containing so many Counties as are in it. As for Cities and other Corporate Places, the way of Collection may be carried by Parishes in that City, Corporation, &c. according to the respective Revenues that may arise from each Parish. This is already practised as to all Land Taxes, and needs no Alteration or Amendment.

2. Secondly, That two able and sufficient Men Inhabitants of each Township, be required by the Deputy-Lieutenants, Justices of the Peace, or other Commissioners to Assess themselves and the rest of the Inhabitants

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of each Townſhip, Pariſh or Diviſion, in every Hundred, and enable to Collect what is ſo by them Aſſeſſed, proportionably to the whole Sum laid upon that Hundred or Diviſion, and thoſe Pariſhes and Townſhips within the ſame. This alſo is the Method of former Times, as to all Land-Taxes, and cannot be put in a better way.

3. Thirdly, That this Money or Treaſure, thus Collected, may remain, and be in all and every part thereof, in the Hands of the ſaid Collectors, reſpectively, for and till ſuch time as it be required from them by ſuch Treaſurers as ſhall be Impowred to receive and pay, or Aſſign it to be received and paid to ſuch Men to whom the ſame or any part thereof ſhall appear to be due from his Majeſty upon any accompt whatſoever, according to the reſpective Truſt of the ſaid Treaſurers, and the due and ordinary Form of that Place and Office, wherein they are Intruſted as Treaſurers, and not otherwiſe, whether they be Treaſurers at War, or for the Army, the Navy, the Houſhold or any other Treaſurers whatſoever, legally warranted to receive and pay his Majeſties Treaſure and Debts.

More than this needs not be ſaid or done, with Reference to the Collecting of all Aids whatſoever in all Townſhips, Pariſhes, Diviſions, Hundreds and Counties of the whole Nation. And more than theſe, two able and ſufficient Men, are needful to be appointed as Collectors thereof, in their reſpective Townſhips, who are beſt able to know and Determine how many Chimnies are in each Houſe of that Townſhip, and how many Ale Houſes or Brewers and Drawers of Ale and Beer, do inhabit therein, having the Acts of Parliament to direct them what to do for the one, and Inſtructors from the Juſtices or other Commiſſioners for the Hundred, what to Impoſe upon the other, either by the Strike of Mault ſpent, or by the Barrel of Ale drawn, *&c.*

In this way propounded his Majeſty ſhall be ſure to have his full Revenue Collected, and depoſited in good Hands ready to be paid to ſuch as by his Authority, ſhall Aſſign the ſame or any part thereof, to all or any of his Creditors, to whom they ſhall give their Aſſignations free of all Charge to his Majeſty, not only for Collecting, but alſo for paying of the ſame. For they do not more, nor ſo much as the Collectors for the Poor, or the Churchwardens of every Pariſh, do or ought to do. And by this way it will eaſily appear not only what the whole Sum of all and every Aid granted or to be granted to his Majeſty, will or doth amount unto in every Townſhip, Pariſh, Diviſion, Hundred, and County of the whole Kingdom; but may alſo happily diſcover, that whereas his Majeſty now loſeth one fourth, if not the third Part of his Aids given him by Anticipations, Loanes at Intereſt, Extraordinary Prizes for Proviſions, Intereſt Money for Payments in Courſe, Fees to Collect, and Charges to Remit them after Collections, Fees upon Receipt and Payment of them, Contracts with Farmers and Undertakers, and twenty things more that I liſt not to mention. He ſhall now have not only all or the moſt part of thoſe Expences ſaved, and his Revenue ſetled and determined what it is, but alſo the ſame augmented ſome hundred thouſand Pounds by the Year, every Year ſo long as it ſhall be continued.

This may ſatisfy for the way of Collecting his Majeſties Treaſure whether for Hearths or Exciſe, and in general of all other Aids whatſoever, that are or may be given him by his Parliament, and laid upon the Nation in General.

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As to the Payment of this Treasure, thus Collected and Lodged in the Subjects own Hands (which will much content them) I shall further offer to Consideration these Propositions following, which I doubt not will content and please them much more, if due Care and Fidelity be had and used therein.

1. Firstly, That the Treasurers both of the Navy, Army, and Houshold or other Treasurers of his Majesties Revenues respectively, be required and enabled by Act of Parliament to receive and Pay the same, as the Sole Trustees thereof, for the Use and Service of his Majesty, and for no other Use or Service whatsoever.

2. Secondly, That all Treasures, Aydes and Collections so Vested in the said Treasurers, by the several Acts of Parliament, shall not be diverted or paid by them or any of them, to any other Use or Service, than for the Services proper and peculiar to their respective Trusts, whether in the Army, Navy, Houshold, &c. Or by any other Order or Warrant, than the ordinary Warrant of three or more of the Commissioners for the Treasury, pursuant unto the Commissioners of the Navy, &c. And that if they or any of them, shall presume to pay any part thereof, to any other Use than the Payment of his Majesties due Debts, according to their several Trusts, by any other Order or Warrant, than the ordinary Warrant of that Office, whereof they are Treasurers, that then by the said Act, he or they shall be liable to such Punishment as his Majesty with his Parliament shall think fit to lay upon him or them, for his or their Breach of Trust in that behalf. And that the Auditors of their Accounts, respectively be required and impowred by the said Act or Acts of Parliament, not to give him or them any Allowance of any of his Majesties Treasure so paid by any extrajudicial Warrant, or Order upon any Pretence whatsoever, upon all or any of their present or succeeding Accompts, upon pain of losing their Places, and suffering what other Punishment his Majesty and his Parliament shall think fit.

3. Thirdly, That the Commissioners of each County nominated in the said Act or Acts, be impowred and required speedily to send up to the said Treasurers, under the Hands and Seals of six or more of them, a List or Certificate of what Sum or Sums of Money are Due and Payable to his Majesty by the said County, as their Part of the whole Sum granted for three or six Months, according to the several Acts for the same, and therein declare how the same is by them and their fellow-Commissioners, distributed into so many Hundreds as are in that County, and into so many Divisions as are in each Hundred, and into so many Parishes as are in each Division, and into so many Townships as are in each Parish. And to signify in the said Certificate the Names of the respective Collectors of every Township, together with the distinct Sums of Money charged upon them, and Collected by them, whether for the Hearth Money, Excize, or the Navy distinctly, whereby the said Treasurers may at one view, have and see not only the full Sum payable by every Hundred in the said County, but also by every Division in the said Hundred, every Parish in the said Division, and every Township in the said Parish for three Months, and where and in whose Hands the same and every part thereof is Lodged for his Majesties Service.

4. Fourthly, That the like Certificate or List be also sent up to the said

Treasurers under their Hands and Seals of two or more of the Commissioners of every City or Town Corporate, chargable in the said Act or Acts, with any part of that Sum that is charged upon each County, as part or member thereof for three Months.

5. Fifthly, That when the Treasurer of the Navy, or any other Treasurer hath received the aforesaid Lists, Certificate, or Duplicates of every County, Hundred, Division, Rape, Wapentake, City, and Town in the whole Kingdom, charged with all or any part of the Sum mentioned in the said Act or Acts, he or they the said Treasurers be further required, and by the said Acts impowred to give publick Notice at the common Office of the Navy or other Places, where their respective Trusts are to be executed, to all men that have or shall sell any Provisions, Commodities, Goods, or Wares to his Majesty, or others Authorized by him for his Use in the Navy, or any other Place, where his Service requires them, and are thereby become Creditors of his Majesty, for any Sum of Money whatsoever, that they and every of them shall forthwith bring to his, and their Offices respectively, all such Bills, Orders, Warrants, or Debentures Signed and Attested in the due form of the Offices of the Navy, Army, Houshold, &c. by three or more of those that are or shall be Authorized to give Warrant for all Payments referring to their particular and respective Trusts, and there to put their Hands as for the Receipt of so much Money as shall justly appear to be due upon the same, after due Examination had thereof by the said Treasurers and their Deputies and Instruments, and after Defaulkation made of all Imprests formerly paid thereupon.

6. Sixthly, That the said Treasurers be in like manner Impowred and Required by the said Acts to call for and take up all Bills of Imprests Signed and paid in the due form of their several Offices, to any Person or Persons that have or shall contract for any Provisions, referring to the Navy, Army, Houshold, &c. to be afterwards supplyed and served into his Majesties Stores for the present and future Service.

7. Seventhly, That the said Treasurers for the time being, respectively be required and by the said Acts Impowred upon Receipt and Delivery of all and every such Bills of Imprests or other ordinary Warrants, Debentures, &c. to give to the respective Parties from whom they do or shall receive the same, one or more Assignations under his or their Hands and Seals, upon one or more of the said Counties, Hundreds, Divisions, Parishes and Townships, most remote from *London*, of so much of his Majesties Treasure vested in them by the said Acts, as shall Pay and Discharge each Mans Bill or Debenture, Order or Warrant, therein Charging, and in his Majesties Name requiring all to whom the said Assignations shall come or concern, to pay the same to him or them, or their lawful Assigns upon sight thereof, if then due, or so soon as the same shall appear to be, and grow due, by and from the said Counties, Hundreds, Divisions, Parishes and Townships by Vertue of the said Act or Acts of Parliament.

Which Assignation so Signed and Sealed as aforesaid, shall be (and by the said Acts shall be expressed to be) as good and sufficient Security to the respective Parties, for their several Debts due from his Majesty, as if they had still kept their Bills and Debentures for the same, and upon Payment thereof by the County, Hundred, Division, Parish, and Townships, and the Collectors thereof respectively, upon whom it is charged or drawn, the like

good and sufficient Security, and Discharge for and to the said County, Hundred, Division, Parish, and Township, and the respective Collectors, and all other men whatsoever concerned therein, as if they and every of them had paid the same according to former Custom, to the high Collector, Receiver General, or Farmers of his Majesties Revenues.

8. Eighthly, That the said Treasurers be enabled by the said Acts, (if the Parties shall desire it,) to include in one and the same Assignation, as one intire Sum, all such Monys as shall appear due to or upon eight, ten, twelve or more Bills or Debentures, Orders or Warrants to 8. 10. 12. or more men that shall amicably Content and Agree among themselves, to employ one or more men for them all, to receive the Sum assigned from the respective Counties, Hundreds, Divisions, Parishes and Townships, provided that they and every of the said Treasurers do specify in the body of his and their Assignations each mans distinct Name, Bill and Sum of Money due to him in particular, though he chargeth the County, &c. but with one Total.

9. Ninthly, That all Commissioners nominated in and by the said Acts for all and every County, be required to be Aiding and Assisting to all and every such Person or Persons, that shall present or produce to them or any of them, any Assignation upon that County, Hundred, Division, Parish, or Township within the same, by giving Warrants of Distress to all Constables and other Officers in case of Refusal or Delay of Payment thereof after the same shall appear due to his Majesty or his Assigns by the respective Acts of Parliament.

10. Tenthly, That the Comptroller of the Navy, &c. for the time being (or such other Person or Persons as his Majesty and the Parliament shall think fit to appoint) be Required and Impowred by vertue of the said Acts, to take and keep an exact Counter-Check, or Book of Accompts, by way of Charge and Discharge, or Creditor and Debtor, of all Bills, Debentures, Orders and Warrants, that shall be taken up by the said Treasurers respectively, and of all Assignations thereupon given by them or any of them, to all or any of his Majesties Subjects or Creditors, therein specifying the particular Sums of Money due to the respective Persons upon the said Bills, &c. and payable by the said Assignations, to them or their lawful Assigns, by and from the respective Counties, Hundreds, Divisions, Parishes, and Townships, as the same shall grow due to his Majesty, by Vertue of the said Acts, for Beer and Ale, Chymnies, or any other thing or way whatsoever, And that no Bill, Debenture, Order, or Warrant be taken in by them or any of them the said Treasurers, nor any Assignation be thereupon given by the said Treasurers or any of them without the Presence, Privity, Approbation, and Attestation of the said Comptroller, or such other Person or Persons, as his Majesty and his Parliament, shall please to appoint in and by the said Acts.

These things premised, I shall endeavour to vindicate this Proposition from some of those Objections that may be made against it, either as not Practicable at all, or if it be, yet with so much Disadvantage and Dammage to his Majesty, that it will not become the Honour of his Majesty, nor the Wisdom of the Parliament to settle it after this manner.

1. It may be said that all his Majesties Treasure ought regularly to be brought into, and lodged in his Exchequer before it be Issued to any particular Service, &c.

To which I Answer.

That I am not at all against the way of the Exchequer, when the Service may admit of Formalities without Prejudice to its Self; which ought in the first place to be regarded) but if the Aides and Revenues setled or to be setled upon his Majesty, whether Land Taxes, Hearth Money, Excize, or any other of the nature of these, referring to the Nation in General, cannot be Collected nor Paid into his Majesties Exchequer, without the loss of much Time, and the expence of too much of the same Treasure, and that by this or any other way that may be found out, his Majesty shall not only expedite the Collection as to time, but also facilitate, if not totally annihilate the Charge and Loss that attends its Transmission into the Exchequer: I see no Reason, why we should so far dote upon a Formality (especially in time of War) as to expose his Majesty to so great and insufferable a Loss, only to keep up that Observance in strict Mode and Form.

2. Nor indeed is the Treasure of Hearth Money, and Excize, paid at present into his Majesties Exchequer, as by the Objection it is supposed it ought to be, but they are both farmed to several Undertakers, and the Money contracted for, is paid by them into the Exchequer, and no more. And what his Majesty gains by farming of them, is easy to be told. It is true, he saves the Charge of Collecting, and Remitting it into his Exchequer, by these Contracts, but it is as true that the Remedy is by so much worse than the Disease, by how much his Majesties Loss, in and by these Contracts and Farmes, is greater than the Charge of Collecting and Remitting the Treasure into his Exchequer. Whereas in the Way Proposed, his Majesty shall be at no Charge in Collecting, nor yet in Paying into or out of his Exchequer, what shall be Collected for his Service, and besides all this, the Insufferable Loss that now he undergoes by Farming, shall also be saved.

3. Suppose it Convenient to Lodge all his Majesties Treasure in his Exchequer, when it may be done without loss of Time, or Expence of Treasure, as the common Receptacle of his Majesties whole Revenue, doth it therefore follow, that it may not be paid elsewhere, when both these Inconveniences that now attend it, may thereby be prevented; if it were paid into the Exchequer, must it not be paid from thence to satisfy his Majesties Debts, to the same Men that this Proposition designs it for, and when it is Paid do not all Instruments employed in the Exchequer, discharge themselves of it in their Accompts, by those Bills and Debentures, Orders, and Warrants, that give them Power so to pay it.

The Design of the Exchequer, is principally for the Accompts of his Majesties Revenues, and not so much for the Receipt of the Treasure it self; Now if the Accompts of his Majesties Treasure, may be made in his Exchequer, as regularly as if it had been brought thither in *Specie*, though it never came there (as all Farmes, and Contracts for these Aides never did) then there can be nothing of Prejudice to his Majesties Service in this Proposition, though by it the Treasure be designed to be paid where it is Collected, to wit, in *Yorke*, *Plymouth*, *Bristol*, *Yarmouth*, and all other Places of the Nation. The Truth is, none but Men Interested in the Receit of these Aides, will make this Objection, nor they neither, but as it refers to their private Profit, by being paid there, and no where else, and by themselves, and no other Men.

4. Nor

4. Nor is the way propounded, altogether a Stranger to the Practiſe of late Times. There are many yet living, that do know, and can well remember that in the Years 1635. 36. 37. 38 and 39. all the Treaſure that was then required and advanced by his then Majeſty, from his Subjects, under the Name and Notion of Ship-Money, was by ſpecial Order from his Majeſty and Council, Veſted in the Hands, of the then Treaſurer of the Navy, who was by ſpecial Order, Enabled to Receive and Pay the ſame, without ever being brought into the Exchequer, and Limited to Pay all and every Part thereof, to and for the Uſe and Debts of the Navy (as Ship-Money) and not otherwiſe, as Part of the ordinary Charge of the Navy, or any Ships thereof employed at Sea, in all or any of theſe Years. And upon this Account it was that his Majeſty would not ſuffer it to be brought into his Exchequer, that it might not be diverted to any other Service, than the Service of Ship-Money, ſo called, that he might the better ſatisfy his Subjects, that what he did in Levying that Treaſure from them, was in Order to their own Preſervation, and not at all for any private Advantage to himſelf.

5. Yea, give me Leave to tell you, that at preſent his Majeſties Revenue of the Cuſtoms, and Impoſts, though it lies ſo near *Weſtminſter*, that it may without much loſs of Time or Expence of Monies, be paid into his Majeſties Exchequer, yet (for the greateſt Part thereof) it is not ſo Paid, nor doth it follow, that what part thereof is not Paid in there, muſt of Neceſſity be Iſſued thence, and from no other Place whatſoever, for the Uſe of his Majeſties Service; But the common Way is for all Gold-Smiths, and others that do lend his Majeſty any Money at Intereſt, to carry on his Services, before his own Revenue be Collected, to ſtrike Tallies upon the Commiſſioners or Farmers of the Cuſtoms, *&c.* for their reſpective Loanes, with Intereſt Included in thoſe Tallies, and they do receive their Debts, not from the Exchequer, but from the Treaſurer of the Cuſtoms, as the ſame ſhall grow due upon their Tallies. Now if this Courſe hath been, is, and may be Practiſed for the future, without Prejudice to his Majeſties Service, though the Revenues of the Cuſtoms be not Paid into his Majeſties Exchequer, I would humbly demand why the ſame Latitude may not be given and taken for the Payment of his Majeſties Revenues of Hearth-Mony, Excize or Land Taxes in any other place of the Nation, by Aſſignation, from the reſpective Treaſurers, in whoſe Hands the ſame is Veſted by Act of Parliament, which is to them as good a Warrant (if not a greater) than any Talley ſtricken in his Majeſties Exchequer, can be to the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtoms, eſpecially conſidering that by this Means his Majeſty ſhall ſave the Intereſt Money allowed the Goldſmiths or others, upon their reſpective Tallies, and alſo the charge of Collecting and Paying it into his Exchequer, and the Fees allowed upon its Receipt there, and Payment thence. And that the Subject ſhall reap the Benefit of the ſpeedy Payment, without much Charge or Trouble.

6. If it be ſaid the Way propounded, muſt needs be very Chargable, Hazardous and Troubleſom to the Subject before he can poſſibly compaſs his Aſſignation, or the Money Payable thereby, *&c.*

1 Anſwer.

1. That though I propound the Treaſure to be Paid in the Country, and

not out of the Exchequer, nor yet by the respective Treasurers that are now trusted to Receive and Pay the same, but by private Men that have the Money in their Hands, and to such as bring to them Assignations for it from the Treasurers, yet these Men that Receive it, are such Men as have Contracted Debts to themselves by Provisions, *&c.* Sold to his Majesties Use, or for Service done him, and such as (before they had their Assignations for it) had Bills, Debentures, Orders, and Warrants for their respective Debts, in the ordinary Way of the Offices of the Navy, Army, Houshold, *&c.* And such as did by their Receipts to them acknowledg full Satisfaction of them, upon the Delivery of their premised Assignations, and being such and so qualified, what is the Difference between their Receiving their Money or Debts at *York* (if they be content there to take it) or at *London*, at a Goldsmiths Shop, upon a Ticket or Assignation from the same Man or Treasurer, especially considering that the first is setled (as I propound it to be) by Act of Parliament, and the last is a Design of the Treasurers and their Instruments (never practised till a few Years Past.) Is it not better and more easie for the Subject to take and Receive his Debt, where he knows it is already Lodged by Act of Parliament (though far distant from *London*) than to dance Attendance upon the Treasurer and his Instruments many Months before he can procure an Assignation to the Goldsmith, and when he hath it, to be as far from his Debt as he was before, unless, *&c.*

2. But Secondly. The Novelty of this Proposition, doth not render it impracticable for the Subject, nor doth it follow, that because it was never experimented, nor so much as Propounded before, that it may not be propounded now, and practised hereafter, if upon due and serious Consideration had thereupon, it shall be found both Honourable and Highly Beneficial to his Majesty, the Parliament, and the Subject, to make Use of it.

As to his Majesty, I dare boldly (yet humbly) Affirm that in the two setled Aides of Hearth-Money, and Excize, he shall save (what is now lost) some hundred thousand of Pounds by the Year, and could without much Difficulty make it appear by an Induction of Particulars, were it needful, and not too much reflecting upon Interested Men.

As to the Parliament, the Way proposed will enable them to see what they have given to his Majesty by this or that Aid, and to determine upon View thereof, whether it be needful for them to grant him more, yea or not, which (as it is now carryed) they are not able to do, for though they know they have given him the Excize upon Ale, the Hearth Money, and other Aids and Revenues, yet they neither do nor can know, what one, both, all, or any one of these Aids do mount unto in the Total by the Year, and for want thereof are necessitated to Act upon an Implicite Faith, in giving more when it may be what they have already given, is enough.

As to the Subject, the way proposed is no more (nor indeed so much) as he voluntarily puts himself upon, in his Trading and Dealing with all Chapmen, in all parts of the Kingdom, to whom after he hath Sold and Trusted his Goods, he doth constantly once or twice every Year make his Application in his own Person, or by his Instruments, to Collect and Receive his Debts from them, wheresoever they Dwell, and oft times with ill Success, when the Debter by ill Husbandry or other Cross, or Casualty, is become Poor and Insolvent (which yet in the way Proposed can never be supposed in his Majesty or the Parliament) yea we know that all Merchants

chants that Trade for *Ireland*, *Spain*, *France*, the *Streights*, *Barbadoes*, *Virginia*, New *England*, yea the *East Indies* do run great Hazards, and are at greater Trouble and Charge in procuring their Debts, than possibly are or can be Imagined to be, attending those that do or shall trust his Majesty in the Navy, Army, or Houshold, if this way of Assignations for their respective Debts were vigorously put into Practise, and they thereby assured, that upon Demand of their Money, due upon their respective Assignations, they should be duly and punctually paid without Snips, Fees, Gratuities, Delayes, or other Abatements, or Charges whatsoever, other than their necessary Expences, to Collect and Receive them.

What better Security can they have or desire to have than the King, Lords and Commons? what quicker Payment, than from the Collectors of every Townshiip, Parish, Division, Hundred or County? what greater Power than upon Denial or Delay to distrein the Parties Goods, and sell them before his Face, and that by Authority of the Parliament, and that not so much by himself, as the Constable or other Officer, upon the place required, and impowred by Act of Parliament so to do. Add to this that all or most Tradesmen in *London*, that shall or may serve his Majesty with Provisions for the Navy, Army, Houshold, *&c.* came first out of the several Counties of *England* and *Wales*, to be Apprentices there, and still have their respective Friends, Relations, and Acquaintance remaining there, by whose Influence their Charge and Trouble may be much Facilitated. And I do not understand why those that either do or shall deal with his Majesty or his Commissioners for his Use, should not as equally be content to take their Debts or Assignations from private Men, where those Men have it for them, as from other private Men of the same place, to whom they have Sold, and voluntarily Trusted their Goods, *&c.* Especially considering that his Majesty not only hath it there, where it is assigned them, but also that his Majesty and his Parliament, have of purpose Lodged it there, that it might not be diverted from them to any Use or Purpose whatsoever.

Moreover, if once the Subject finds the Benefit, Security, and Sweetness of this way of Payment, and be thereby encouraged to deal farther with his Majesties Commissioners, or other Officers, as knowing by Experience their Assignations certain and punctual (as to Payment) then the said Commissioners and Officers may and shall make their Contracts at easier Rates, by at least 8 *l. per Cent.* in the Price, than now they either do or can do, (besides the unserviceableness of the Provision it self) for every Man is at present loath to deal with his Majesties Officers, for any considerable quantity of Goods, unless they be prickt forward thereto by the profit of 20 *per Cent.* in the Price, more than they would willingly sell the same Commodity for to a private Man, if that Man be a good solvent and punctual Man as to his Payment, whereas if his Majesties Payment were certain, they would then seek the Service of his Majestie. Officers and Commissioners should never want any Provision they desire to have, better for and at far easier Rates than now they can procure them, by reason of the uncertain Way of Payment, and these not be named Snips, Abatements, and Allowances (besides the length of time) that are and must be made before they can compass their Money.

I shall further add that if it were true that the Subject should (by the way Proposed) be at as great a Charge and Trouble as his Majesty is now at in remitting

remitting his Treasure into his Exchequer (which yet cannot rationally be imagined) yet is it not better that 20000 Men or more should divide and bear the Charge and Loss among themselves, than that the whole Burthen should lye upon one Mans Shoulder, or his Majesties single Person, especially considering, (as we say) that the *Medium* will bear it (as to them) I mean that the Profit in the Price of their Provisions will bear it, and much more, whereas his Majesty loseth what he loseth, be it more or less, out of the quick Stock. I mean his setled Revenue.

Let me further say, that it is safer and more rational (yea it is practical in all common Nusances,) that some few Men in the Nation, should rather bear the Loss and Charge of that Nusance, than that the whole Nation should suffer under it, as they do in the Case in Hand. For to speak plainly, it is not so much his Majesty that loseth what is lost (though that be a Truth in some Sence) as the People of the Nation that pay it, who indeed pay and lose it twice over. First out of their Purses and Estates, by paying it according to the Act, and Secondly in its not being employed upon the Service for which the Act requires it.

In short, I am partly confident, and for the greatest part thereof could make it appear (were it not to avoid Offence) that his Majesty loseth the fourth, if not the third Part of all his Treasure given him by several Acts of Parliament, before it can arrive to a nett Payment in the due Form of all Offices, and we know that the one fourth Part of two Millions, is in the whole 500000 *l.* Now whether it be safe for his Majesty or his Parliament to suffer so great a Dammage to attend the Service upon which the Welfare of the whole Nation depends, if they can prevent it, I humbly submit to their more serious Consideration, and shall only say that by means of this Proposition, the Treasurer of the Navy, and all other Treasurers may be constantly furnished with Treasure sufficient, and more than enough to pay off all growing Debts upon his Majesty, whether by Interest or otherwise, and after a more especial manner, that devouring Monster of Seamens Wages before mentioned, so soon as the respective Fleets or Ships shall be safe at their Moarings, the want whereof in the late War with the *Dutch*, was a most intollerable Disservice to his Majesty.

To conclude, I shall humbly leave it to the Wisdom of his Majesty, and his Parliament, to consider that the way proposed cuts off all Capability in the respective Treasurers of Diverting all or any part of his Majesties Treasure, already or hereafter to be granted to him, to or for any other Use or Uses than the Payment of his Majesties Debts, duly made in their respective Offices, to which it is assigned, which (if I mistake not) no other way as yet Proposed or Practised can prevent or disappoint. And if there were nothing else of Weight or Worth in this Proposition, that might invite its entertainment; Yet this it self duly considered, is enough to out-Ballance all Objections, that are or can be made against it. The Truth is, though I could frame as many Objections against the Way proposed, as most of those that shall set themselves to oppose it, yet I cannot see any of them, of that weight and consideration that some may think them to be, and truly if I did, I should readily relinquish all Thoughts upon it, as Idle and Vain, having no Design by it, either against any mans Person or Welfare, or for any private Profit or Preferment to my self, but intirely to serve his Majesty and my Country, as becometh a dutiful Subject in these Distracted Times which

call

call aloud for every mans Help to preſerve his Majeſty from Debt and Diſhonour, and his Subjects from all unneceſſary Burthens. If his Majeſty and Parliament ſhall not think fit to make uſe of it, I can as well content my ſelf, as if they did, I ſhall acquieſce in their deep Wiſdom, though yet I think I ſhall never live to ſee his Majeſty freed from thoſe Debts that are now upon him, and do and will grow more and greater, notwithſtanding, all the forementioned Ways and Means now uſed to free him from them; Intereſt Money, and other Improvidences not fit to be named, though yet notoriouſly known, being as equally deſtructive to his Majeſties Revenues, as they are to a private Mans Eſtate, if not truly and carefully prevented.

POSTSCRIPT.

ALthough I have in the former Diſcourſe propounded the Payment of his Majeſties Aids, whether ordinary or extraordinary, whether by Land-Taxes, Excize, Hearth-Money, *&c.* to be made to the Subject by Aſſignations from the reſpective Treaſurers, upon the Collectors of the reſpective Townſhips, yet if it ſhall be thought too much Charge or Trouble to the Subject to receive their Debts by theſe Aſſignations, from the Hands of ſo many Collectors, thus diſtributed and diſtinguiſhed, I ſhall humbly offer, that the Money or Treaſure collected in each Townſhip, may be paid and depoſited into the Hands of one or more Men, to be intruſted to receive the whole Collection of each Pariſh, and if it be ſtill thought too great Trouble to the Subject to receive it from him or them, then that the Treaſure Collected in that Pariſh (as alſo in all Pariſhes in that Diviſion) be paid over and depoſited into the Hands of one two or more of that Diviſion, as the total Sum aſſeſſed upon or ariſing from that Diviſion. And if yet it ſhall not be thought fit to burthen the Subject with ſo much Trouble and Charge as may attend the Receipt thereof from the reſpective Truſtees of each Diviſion, that then the whole Sum Collected in that Diviſion (as alſo in all the Diviſions of that Hundred) be paid and depoſited into the Hands of two or more able and reſponſible Men of that Hundred. And further if the Treaſure Collected in that Hundred, be not thought fit to be paid by thoſe Intruſted therewith, to thoſe that ſhall bring or preſent Aſſignations from the reſpective Treaſurers, for all or any part thereof, that then the Money Collected in that Hundred (and in all Hundreds of that County) be it more or leſs, be paid over to one two or more Commiſſioners to be nominated and appointed by the ſeveral Acts of Parliament, as receivers of the ſame for the whole County, to be by them paid to the Subject, according to ſuch Aſſignations as he or they ſhall from time to time receive from the reſpective Treaſurers for the ſame.

This I am ſure, (if none of the reſt) will both eaſe the Charge, and facilitate the Trouble of the Subject, and yet preſerve his Majeſties Revenue intire, and abundantly Satisfy the Parliament, whether what they have given to his Majeſty be ſufficient for that end, for which it was given, or not.

If it be ſaid that this Remedy is full as bad (if not worſe) than the Diſeaſe, in regard his Majeſty and the Parliament muſt by this Propoſition be at the Charge of ſo many Commiſſioners for the Receipt and Payment of his Treaſure, as there be Counties in the Nation, or Hundreds in each County of the Nation; and that this Charge and Expence will amount to as much if not more than if the whole Aid were remitted into his Exchequer, and paid thence according to the preſent ſetled and regular Way of the Nation.

I anſwer, No ſuch Matter, for indeed the whole Charge cannot rationally be ſuppoſed to be the Moyety of his Majeſties Charge, into and out of the Exchequer, as I could eaſily demonſtrate to all unbyaſſed Men. But to wave that diſpute, I ſhall further ſay that though by this Propoſition I do deſign the eaſe of the Subject as to Charge and Trouble in Collecting his Aſſignations, yet I conceive it Juſt and Reaſonable that the whole Charge of Collecting and Paying it from the reſpective Pariſhes to the Commiſſioners for each Diviſion, and from them to Commiſſioners of each Hundred, and from them to the Commiſſioners of each County, and from them to the Creditors that ſhall preſent their Aſſignations, may and ought in every part thereof, to be born by the Subject that receives the Treaſure, and no part thereof paid or born by his Majeſty, in regard what is done by his Majeſty or his Parliament in this Particular, is ſo done for the Subjects eaſe and benefit, and not his Majeſties, and in regard all Creditors have either by Intereſt-Money or the Profit of their Goods Sold, or both Included in the ſame Aſſignation, ſufficient Gains to bear that and a greater Loſs, and are alſo inabled to Receive their Money Aſſigned them without all or any of that Charge, that now attends him or them, by Fees, Gratuities, or otherwiſe, before he or they can procure it paid in other Offices or Places, and alſo that he or they do and ſhall come into it, in a far ſhorter time, than otherwiſe he or they could obtain it, either by ſtaying for it till there comes Money in the reſpective Offices to pay them, or by carrying his or their Bills, Debentures, Orders, or Warrants, and entering them as ſo much Money lent unto his Majeſty, to be paid with Intereſt in courſe. All which conſidered and laid together, is I am ſure a far greater Profit and Advantage to the Subject, than the premiſed Charge and Loſs can poſſibly be, and will eaſily ſatisfy them that the Charge of Lodging their Debts after this manner for them, whether in Counties or Hundreds, ought to be born by themſelves, and no part thereof by his Majeſty. And I am confident that if the Parliament ſhould think fit to declare in their reſpective Acts, what, and how much the Charge ſhall be to the Subject in the Receipt of his Aſſignations, either to the Juſtices Clarkes, the Collectors of each Diviſion or Hundred, or to the Commiſſioners of each County and their Clarks, as they have formerly done in Acts of Parliament, for Land Taxes to men of the ſame or the like Truſts, that the Subject would be ſo far from Diſcontent or Diſſatisfaction therein, that it would incourage him to deal with his Majeſties Commiſſioners in the future for all Goods, Ships or other things

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whatſoever with more Confidence and Chearfulneſs, and at eaſier Rates, by far than formerly they did. For ſuppoſe an Aſſignation be given for one thouſand Pounds, and that the Charge attending its Receipt, be by the Parliament, declared to be three pence upon the Pound, to be diſtributed to ſeveral Inſtruments, the whole Charge of the Receipt of his 1000 *l.* is but 12 *l.* 10 *s.* 00. And what Creditor to his Majeſties Service would grutch to give 12 *l.* 10 *s.* (which is but 25 *s* out of a hundred Pounds) as neceſſary Fees ſpent out of the whole thouſand Pounds Debt from his Majeſty, to ſave his own Pains and Labour, that hath not only the profit of the Price of his Goods ſold, but alſo Intereſt-Money allowed him for the whole 1000 *l.* incluſively, in his Aſſignation till his Money be paid. But admit the worſt, to wit, that the Charge of the Receipt of his 1000 *l* were much more (as ſomething it muſt needs be by Travel, Exchange, *&c.*) yet (as was ſaid before) is not this Burthen lighter upon the Shoulders of 20000 Men or more in the whole Nation, than to be laid upon, and born by his Majeſties ſingle Perſon, eſpecially conſidering (as was ſaid) that the profit will bear much more loſs, and yet leave them ſufficient Gainers by his Majeſties Service, and that at preſent, they are at far greater loſs of Time and Expence out of their principal Debt, before they can compaſs it to themſelves. But ſuppoſe his Majeſty and his Parliament ſhould approve of this Propoſition, in any of the Notions held forth in this Poſtſcript: how ſhould thoſe Creditors to whom his Majeſty is indebted, either by voluntary Loans, Anticipations, Advance-Money upon Farms or Contracts, Orders in Courſe or otherwiſe, be paid their reſpective Debts, *&c?* Where Contracts are made, and Farms lett, it is both Juſt and Honourable that the Farmers ſhould enjoy the Benefit of their Contracts, upon which they did lend or advance their Money during the whole term of their Contract unexpired. The ſame alſo might be ſaid in the Caſe of Anticipations upon any part of his Majeſties Revenue, where Tallies are ſtruck upon them till the Tallies be fully paid; but for voluntary Loans, Orders in Courſe, and other occaſional Debts, the ſooner they were paid off by Aſſignations upon his Majeſties Aids thus ſetled and depoſited in each County or Hundred the better, in order to take off that eating Charge of Intereſt-Money, that devours too great a Part thereof.

What if after all this Care taken, it ſhall appear that the preſent Aids ſetled upon his Majeſty, are not enough or ſufficient to bear about his Annual Expences in ordinary, and much leſs to pay off his Debts, and how ſhall his Majeſty carry on his Service, *&c.* by propounding to his Parliament his neceſſity of further Aids from his People, and having it granted to him, when all the care taken that can be to improve the preſent Aides given him to the higheſt of Frugality, and found too little?

Were it not better for his Majeſty to proceed in the preſent way of Loans, Anticipations, Farms, Payments in Courſe, *&c.* than to depend upon the Love or Bounty of his Parliament and People, eſpecially conſidering how ready and willing the City of *London*, the Goldſmiths now called Bankers, and other his Majeſties Subjects are to ſupply his Neceſſities upon all emergent Occaſions, out of their Zeal and Affection to and for his Majeſties Service, *&c.* Why ſhould his Majeſty be directed to a ſtanding Pool to quench his Thirſt, that hath a River to drink in? What Zeal or Affection either do thoſe that lend or advance Treaſure, ſhew to his Majeſty more

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than I can have from a Common Uſurer in my Neceſſity, if I can but give him ſuch Security as he likes for the Payment of his Principal with Intereſt, Do I look upon him as a man that loves me, who notwithſtanding all his fair Pretences to me, will not lend me 5000*l* to relieve me, unleſs I will mortgage to him my Eſtate for the Security of his 500*l* with Intereſt? Certainly as this is no Love to a private Man in his Neceſſity from an Uſurer, ſo it is much leſs to a Prince in his. And as this is no ſafe way for a private Man to take that hath a Father, Brother or Friend that is willing, able, and ready to furniſh his Wants without Intereſt or Mortgaging his Eſtate, *&c.* ſo is a moſt deſtructive way to his Majeſty, who hath his Parliament, and his People, not only able and willing, but alſo bound in Duty as his Loyal and Loving Subjects, to give him ſufficient Aid and Relief, if they find (as by the way propoſed they eaſily may) that what they have already ſetled upon him is not enough. But how ſhall the Parliament prevent the Loan of Money at Intereſt, Anticipations by Goldſmiths, or any other men, if after all that is or may hereafter be ſetled upon him, his Majeſty ſhall yet deſire to borrow their Money.

It would ſavour of too much boldneſs for any private man (and much more for my ſelf) to hint any thing in this Particular to the Wiſdom of the Parliament: They know better than any Man can direct them what to do in this Point, though yet I muſt needs ſay, that even in my own time, I have known it looked upon as a Criminal Act for any Man whatſoever to compound his Majeſties Debts, to ſtrike Tallies upon his Revenue with Intereſt included to pay them, or to advance Money upon Intereſt, to ſupply his Majeſties Occaſions upon any Account whatſoever, and do much fear that till ſome ſuch Courſe be taken with thoſe that grow upon his Majeſties Neceſſity by Anticipations, Loans, Farms, Advance-Money, or any other way whatſoever, with Intereſt allowed them for their Money; his Majeſty ſhall (as I have formerly ſaid) never be out of Debt, let the Parliament give him what they pleaſe.

How ſhall his Majeſty have a clear and regular Accompt in his Exchequer, of the full proceed of his Hearth-Money, Excize, and other his ſetled, or to be ſetled Revenues in the way propoſed?

But the Certificates, Liſts, and Duplicates, of all Treaſure Collected and Paid to the Commiſſioners of each Hundred or County, and by the Aſſignations made by the reſpective Treaſurers to the ſaid Commiſſioners, and by the Compter-Check of thoſe Aſſignations, all which will either by themſelves, or compared together, Ballance the Accompts of all Treaſurers reſpectively, and give the Auditor of thoſe Accompts ſufficient Grounds for his Allowance of the ſame, if paid according to the Direction of the ſeveral Acts of Parliament in the uſual Form, and by the common Voucher of their Offices reſpectively, and not otherwiſe.

Who ſhall give the Treaſurers their reſpective Charges? The ſeveral Acts of Parliament where the Treaſure is aſcertained by a Land Tax, and in default thereof, as in the Caſe of Excize and Hearth-Money, the Certificates of each Townſhip in every Pariſh, the Certificates of each Pariſh in all Diviſions, the Certificates of all Diviſions in every Hundred, the Certificates of all Hundreds in every County, and the Certificates of all Counties in the whole Kingdom. This I am ſure will give them, and each of them a full Charge.

But

But are not the Treaſurers notwithſtanding this, left in a Capacity of diverting his Majeſties Treaſure to wrong Perſons, and for wrong and pretended Services?

Not at all, if the Acts of Parliament be their Rule and Guide for their Aſſignations, and the Contra-rotulator or Clerk of theſe Aſſignations be faithful to his Truſt.

How ſhall the Townſhips of every Pariſh, the Pariſhes of every Diviſion, the Diviſions of every Hundred, the Hundreds of every County, the Counties of the whole Kingdom, and every individual Perſon concerned in the Collection or Payment of all or any of his Majeſties Aides, or any part thereof, whether Land-Taxes, Hearth Money, or Excize, be acquitted of their reſpective payments.

You might have ſpared your Enquiry if you had obſerved what was ſaid in the ſeventh Article of this Propoſition, yet to ſatisfy your Curioſity, I ſhall further ſay, that they either are or may be acquitted by the Receipts of the reſpective Collectors of every Townſhip, Pariſh, Diviſion, Hundred or County in the whole Nation, to be nominated or appointed either by the Acts of Parliament, or by Warrant from the Deputy-Lieutenant, Juſtices of the Peace, or others authorized by the ſaid Acts to appoint Aſſeſſors, and Collectors for the ſame.

Will not the Way propoſed be a great Burthen to the reſpective Treaſurers in making their Aſſignations, and the Comptroler in keeping Check upon them more than their proper Duty is at preſent, and will not this beget his Majeſty into a farther Charge than at preſent he is at for their ſo doing?

As to the Treaſurers, their Labour will not be near ſo much as what they now do or ought to do in their Receipt and Payment of all Monies proper to their Places and Truſts, a great part whereof they are by this means totally eaſed in, and freed from. And for the Aſſignations themſelves they have nothing to do therein, but to fit up a Blank-printed Aſſignation of one and the ſame Form and Subſtance, varying only in the Date, the Sum Aſſigned, the Place, County, Hundred, *&c.* The Names of the Commiſſioners that are to pay it, and of the Parties that are to receive it; As to the Comptercheck, it is at preſent, his proper Duty to check the Treaſurers Accompts of all Payments whatſoever, and in this Way he will be eaſed of much of that Labour, that now lies upon him, if he perform his Duty as he ought, ſo that his Majeſty may rather abate much of what is already allowed, than give more in a way of Augmentation.

How ſhall the Treaſurers of the Navy, Army, Houſhold, or other men Intruſted for Payment of his Majeſties Treaſure by Aſſignations, be directed where and upon whom to place and make their Aſſignments, without interfering each with other?

By the Acts of Parliament, Aſſigning ſuch and ſo many Counties to each Treaſurer, as ſhall drown the Sum eſtimated to be the full Expence of each Office for one Year.

If his Majeſties Revenues ſhould be paid by Aſſignations after this manner, from the reſpective Treaſurers, how or where ſhall his Majeſty be ſupplied with Treaſure ſufficient for his privy Purſe, Intelligence with Foraign Princes, and other extraordinary Expences Suitable to the Dignity of his Perſon?

By and from the Cuſtomes, Excize, and Impoſts laid, and to be laid up-

on all Native and Forraign Commodities Exported and Imported, the Revenue whereof is not at all within the Ken, Compass or Prospect of this Proposition, but left wholy as it now is to be improved and imployed by his Majesty, for those and other Services, without Reference to the Way Proposed for the Collection and Payment of his other Aides and Land-Taxes, that concern the Nation in General.

In what particulars doth the Way Proposed, tend to the Advantage of his Majesty, or his Successors

I love not Repetitions, yea have had them here and there scatteringly delivered through the whole Discourse past, yet in the regard this is the Hing upon which the Design of this Proposition doth turn, and the only Ground of my present undertaking; I shall (contrary to my Desire, and the Practice of those that know what they say or write) gratifie you with a particular enumeration of some few of those many Advantages of no small Consideration that may accrue to his Majesty by this Proposition.

1. First, In his Honour, it being much below the Dignity of a Prince, that hath a Rich, Loyal, and Loving People to his Subjects, willing and ready upon all emergencies to supply his Wants, to seek the Aid and Assistance of private Persons, that never Act without Designs of Profit and Gain to themselves, in all their pretended Services for him, and without which they will not supply him.

For his Majesty to have Advice and to Prosecute this Way when he was under the Inhumane Usage of the late Usurpation was no wonder; Force hath no Choice; But for his Majesty to be advised to the same Courses now, when he is Crowned King of *England*, by those that I dare say are his Faithful and Loyal Servants and Subjects, and to prosecute that Advice, when the Persons and Purses of the whole Nation are at his Devotion and Service, is much to his Dishonour. The Long Parliament in the late unhappy War, that first brought up the Payment of Orders in Course in this Nation, were not able to carry on the War without such a way, in regard of the Peoples Disaffection to them, and that the greatest part of the Nation was then under the Power of the Kings Army; but this is no Rule, or Coppy for his Majesties Friends or Servants to walk in, or write by, unless they could make it appear that his Majesty is at present in the same Dilemma. When the War ceased, Payments in Course, ceased of Course. And why they should be continued to his Majesties great Dammage, and Dishonor in this happy time of Peace, I cannot understand,

If he hath not enough, in Gods Name let him have more, yea much more than enough, rather than one Penny too little; there is no Loyal Subject that will not say AMEN to this Prayer, only let not the Usurer, Farmer, *&c.* Eat out and Devour his Revenues, under the notion of high Services, and I know not what other Pretences.

2. In his Revenue of Excize, Hearth-Money, and all Land-Taxes, which by this Means may be improved to the utmost Pitch of what they are, be it more or less.

3. In the Charge of Collecting the said Revenues, which at present costs his Majesty, as allowed by the Acts of Parliament, for two Millions of Treasure 33333 *l.* 06 *s.* 08 *d.* all and every Part thereof being by the way Proposed to be paid by the Subject that hath the Benefit of his Assignations.

4. In the Fees allowed to all Officers and their Clerks in the Exchequer for the Receipt of his Majesties Revenue.

5. By

By the like Fees Paid and Allowed to the ſame Officers, and their Inſtruments for the payment of his Majeſties Treaſure, either to private Perſons, or to the reſpective Treaſurers of the Navy, Army, Houſhold, in their reſpective Offices to be paid by them to private Men for his Majeſties Uſe and Services.

6. In all Fees and Allowances made and given by the Auditors to all or any of theſe Treaſurers upon their Accompts as Money diſburſed, as paid by them for Portage, Water-Carriage, Baggs, Wax, or any other Charge whatſoever in the Receipt of his Majeſties Treaſure, Aſſigned to them in their ſeveral Offices and Truſts.

7. In having by this means a Bank of Treaſure in all thoſe Countries that lie near *London*, ready upon all Commands to ſupply preſent Occaſions; All Aſſignations being by this Propoſition in the firſt place to be charged and given to, and upon all Counties remote from *London*, whether in *England* or *Wales*.

8. Hereby his Majeſty ſhall have Treaſure ready to pay off all Fleets or Ships ſo ſoon as they are ſafely gotten to their Moorings, to prevent that devouring Charge or Monſter of paying Victuals and Wages for twelve or thirteen Months before mentioned.

9. It enabling his Majeſties Commiſſioner in all Offices whatſoever to Contract and Purchaſe for his Majeſties Uſe and Service, all and all ſorts of Proviſions, far better in their kind, and by at leaſt eight or ten *per Cent.* cheaper in their Price, than they can poſſibly do in the way of Payment now Practiſed.

10. By cutting off all Intereſt-Money now paid to the Goldſmiths or other men for Moneys taken up by way of Anticipation, before his Majeſties Revenue can poſſibly be Collected and paid into his Majeſties Exchequer.

11. By the like ſaving of all Intereſt now paid and allowed upon all Orders Payable in Courſe either for Goods ſold, or Moneys lent upon that way of Payment.

12. By preventing the preſent Dammage ſuſtained by Farms and Contracts, upon all or any of his Majeſties Aides, wherein the profit to the Contractor is at leaſt one fourth, if not one third Part of what he undertakes for, beſides the Oppreſſion of the Subject.

13. By preventing all capability of Diverſion of his Majeſties Treaſure in all or any part thereof from the Services to which it was deſigned by the Parliament, when it was firſt granted to his Majeſty, eſpecially in the caſe of War, or any other extraordinary Service, where the Tax laid is a Land Tax, and refers to the Nation in General, and not to particular Perſons, ſo and ſo qualified as the Excize and Hearth-Mony do.

14. By capacitating the Victualler of his Majeſties Navy, to make his Proviſion of Victuals in all Sea-Ports and Harbours where any of his Majeſties Fleets or Ships ſhall lye, or may touch or come, ſuch as *Dover*, *Harwich*, *Newcaſtle*, *Plymouth*, *Dartmouth*, *&c.* by taking up his Bills of Impreſt, and giving him Aſſignations upon thoſe Towns, Cities, or Counties, moſt contiguous to thoſe Parts, or Harbours whereby his Majeſties Ships ſhall or may be diſpatched to Sea, and not lie in Harbour full manned, ſometimes two Months together before he can get Victuals to ſend them forth to Sea.

15. In

15. In full and ſeaſonable Supplies of the Magazeens of all his Majeſties In-Stores and Out-Stores, in all and every of his Majeſties Yards and Store-houſes at *Chatham*, *Deptford*, *Woolwich*, and *Portſmouth*; the want whereof, doth at preſent Rob one Yard to Supply another, after the Proviſion taken thence was laid in there at exceſſive Rates and Prizes, and after the Expence of Land, and Water-Carriage, Cranage, Portage, Labourers Wages, &c. to Lodge them for his Majeſties Service in that Yard, which (as before I hinted) is no ſmall Devourer of his Majeſties Treaſure, and conſequently a begetter of his Debts, beſides the Diſſervice that is done to his Majeſty, when the Service in that Yard ſhall call for the Uſe of the ſame Proviſions.

In ſhort the Way Propoſed, will (if I miſtake not) be effectual in a ſhort time, not only to bring his Majeſty out of Debt, but alſo to prevent his being in Debt for the Future, by cutting off all Eating Charges upon his Majeſties Treaſure whatſoever, if the Aides already ſetled upon him, be found upon their full Improvement, to be ſufficient to carry on his Services with Honour, and if not, yet to ſatisfie the Parliament ſo as to Give and Grant him ſuch further Aides, as may and will do it Effectually, without any Application to private Men, by the preſent forenamed Contrivances, and Practices, which are ſo far from anſwering the End Propoſed by them, that they are the Foundations of thoſe great Debts that are Incumbent upon him, and never will, nor indeed can free him from them, but plunge and involve him deeper and deeper in them, the longer they are continued by him.

FINIS